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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

DAVID C. HOLLISTER
DIRECTOR

→ OSBaker
due 10/12/04
copy to DSP

September 16, 2004

Mr. Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Region V
John D. Kluczynski Building
230 South Dearborn Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1505

Dear Mr. Zuidema:

On February 1, 2004, the Thumb Area Michigan Works! Agency began implementation of its USDOL approved, Individual Training Account (ITA) Tiered Provider System demonstration project. During the initial months of operation, the Thumb Area has experienced and reported positive, progressive system development activities, and encountered no issues of concern related to the system. However, it has become apparent that the one-year limitation on the administration of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)-ITA Tiered Provider demonstration will not provide sufficient time to gain appropriate system customer and training provider outcomes and feedback.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, Michigan officially requests an extension of the waiver awarded to the Thumb Area to administer the ITA Tiered Provider System demonstration project through June 30, 2006. The proposed seventeen (17) month extension would:

- Allow for continual testing of our ITA alternative as WIA reauthorization discussion continues;
- Support the consistent usage of our ITA alternative within the Thumb Region over at least a 24-month testing period;
- Allow for appropriate outcome data to be collected regarding the impact of our ITA waiver;
- Target a conclusion date that corresponds with the standard end of a Program Year; and
- Not result in any additional costs to the WIA system.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact Ms. Janet Howard, Director, Workforce Transition Division, at (517) 335-5858, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda C. Njiwaji, Interim Director
Workforce Programs

BCN/VE/GMC/cg
cc: Marvin N. Pichla

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